

**Tree Planting Committee**  
**Town Hall, Room 408**  
**Minutes – February 20, 2013, 5 p.m.**

Attending: Hugh Mattison (Chair), Phil Shabecoff, Nadine Gerdts, Tom Brady (Staff)

Public: Jason Lind (Boston resident)

**Approval of Minutes:**

Heather Lis took photos of the Committee for the Town's Annual Report.

Minutes from the December 4, 2012, were reviewed. Subject to a typographical correction, the minutes were unanimously accepted.

Phil asked that future meetings be scheduled for 4:30. Nadine responded that this would be suitable for her.

To follow up on her previous request, Nadine asked that a map be generated showing the proposed trees, as well as existing trees, for reference before this spring planting starts. Tom agreed to have this map prepared.

**Staff Update:**

**Spring 2013 Planting** - Tom reported that trees should be delivered in mid-to-late March, with planting to start around mid-April. Two hundred twenty-three trees have been ordered from Shemin Nurseries. Hugh suggested making a site visit to the area at the Transfer Station being used as a "nursery" in early April.

Tom reported that the heaviest tree loss (mostly willows) in Hurricane Sandy has been at the Brookline Reservoir, and suggested this be the site for an Arbor Day ceremonial tree planting sometime around late April or early May. Nadine suggested that Ben Gladstone be invited; Hugh agreed to invite him once the date is decided.

In late March, the Committee will review on site some of the locations to be planted. Tom will give Hugh a list of the back-of-sidewalk requests and Hugh will coordinate the placement and species with the owner. Hugh will send a copy of the Tree Maintenance Agreement to Nadine and mention this program in an upcoming Brookline GreenSpace Alliance email. Nadine will consider writing some description of this program.



Emma Cummings  
commemoration stone at  
Horace James Circle

Brookline will host the Tree City USA annual meeting at Wheelock College (Brookline Campus). This will probably be a 9-3 event in the first week of June (Wednesday or Thursday most likely) with a guest speaker. Food will be provided by Wheelock.

Tom mentioned that there is a stone commemorating Emma Cummings near Horace James Circle.

**Heritage Tree Program:**

The Committee discussed the general characteristics of a Heritage Tree program. Various considerations include:

Definition of "Heritage" – what would the criteria be (age, beauty, size, history, cultural value) public or private property. Brandon Schmitt, the Park Ranger, is working with Lincoln School to identify large trees on private property which could be identified as "heritage". Phil suggested that the Tree Planting Committee (TPC) could issue a certificate in recognition of a tree's significance. Tom pointed out that the Conservation Commission would not issue a Conservation Restriction. Tom stated that an owner could protect a tree through a conservation covenant attached to a deed. Nadine suggested that the Town could inventory significant trees periodically (maybe every ten years), but this would require a commitment by the Town with possible funding requirements. Phil has drafted an article for the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance newsletter and will send this to Hugh and Nadine. Tom suggested that certificates of recognition could be issued by the TPC as part of the public school program which could be considered as public education. These could be mapped, and possibly added as a "significant tree" webpage on the Brookline Town website.

Hugh will ask Brandon the status of the Lincoln School effort.

**Other Business:**

Nadine reported that she contacted a RISD Furniture Dept. faculty member who is involved with the Witness Tree program of the National Park Service and although RISD would not be able to use the wood from the beech tree for an academic project, there may be woodworkers who could use it for individual work.

The tree has a bleeding canker that could migrate to other trees. Half the tree was defoliated this year. Tom pointed out that someone would have to be available to remove the wood on site as it was cut. He will give Nadine 7-10 days notice before it is to be cut.

Nadine asked that about street road-salting practices. Tom suggested that she ask DPW Commissioner Pappastergion about this.

The next meeting will toward the end of March. Tom will distribute a draft planting list before then.

Adjourned at 6:00 pm

Prepared and submitted by:

Hugh Mattison

March 25, 2013